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ON PAGE 165

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He Might Have Read The Nation (Continued)

Q. Was there a failure on the part of the C.I.A. to foresee the dangers to the Shah's Government, and what those dangers could mean to America's interests in that area?

Adm. Stansfield Turner: **. . . I know of no other intelligence service that predicted the problems in Iran. I know of no newspaper or academic journalists who predicted them in their writings. Clearly this caught up with the Shah without his recognizing it. I would suggest that even Ayatollah Khomeini didn't realize how well his force was moving along.**

—ABC's *Issues and Answers*, Feb. 4, 1979

Clearly, Admiral Turner has been caught not reading *The Nation* again—this time on national television. As we pointed out in our issue of February 3, *The Nation* published a number of articles, going as far back as 1960, in which the Shah's regime was portrayed as corrupt, repressive and unstable. On this same ABC program, under the persistent questioning of correspondents John Scali and Bob Clark, Admiral Turner finally resorted to splitting hairs: "We did not forecast that on the 5th of November this would suddenly well up into one big eruption that led to the departure of the Shah." If it comes to that, neither did we, or the other serious journals that were publishing articles of the same tenor as ours. The problem was a wrong policy—supporting the Shah fully despite his totalitarian excesses over two decades—and little information from the intelligence services that would move anyone to doubt this policy. (Scali cited documents, for example, ostensibly originating with the C.I.A.—Turner disagreed that they did—predicting that the Shah would be "an active participant in Iranian life well into the 1980s" and reporting that Iran was not in "a revolutionary, or even a pre-revolutionary situation.")

A routine file check of our subscription list indicates that the C.I.A. is not a subscriber—at least under its real name, although apparently a Texas office of the agency responded to a subscription solicitation only a couple of weeks ago. To make certain that *The Nation* penetrates to top echelons, we herewith form The Committee for an Informed C.I.A. (C.I.C.I.A.), and invite our readers to send gift subscriptions for *The Nation* to Langley, Va.

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